

Health Care System and Health Care Security Board Summary of Meeting on April 8, 2002

The Health Care System and Health Care Security Board met on Monday, April 8th in Room 427, State House. The meeting was called to order by the House Chair, Rep. Paul Volenik.

Grant Funding Update

The board should hear by the end of this week if the Maine Health Access Foundation will invite the board to submit a full grant application. The deadline for the grant applications is May 15, 2002. Award decisions can be expected by mid-July. In the event that the board is invited to make a grant application, staff will coordinate with Beth Kilbreth and the Muskie School to begin writing the grant application. As you remember, the board has authorized a contract with the Muskie School for up to \$5,000 for technical assistance with grant writing. Staff will keep the board updated by e-mail on the status of this grant application.

Beth Kilbreth also briefed the board on the HRSA planning grant application put forward by the Department of Human Services in early April. The HRSA grant, if awarded, is a year-long grant for planning. Beth told the board that the grant application asks for funding for actuarial studies for assistance in assessing several legislative initiatives, including the Saxl and Bennett proposals (*see below*) and the single-payer model being developed by the board. She was hopeful that the board may be able to tap into the actuarial expertise funded under the grant.

Legislative Initiatives: Saxl and Bennett Proposals

Staff provided an overview and handout summarizing the legislation put forward by Speaker Saxl and President Bennett this session. Both LD 1784 and LD 2146 have been enacted and sent to the Governor for his signature.

Request for Proposal Process

Staff briefed the board on the applicability of the competitive bidding law to the board. As a board authorized by the Legislature, the board is not subject to the competitive bidding law like State departments and agencies. However, the Executive Director's Office of the Legislative Council has suggested that the board develop a request for proposal to select a consultant to complete the feasibility study. Staff provided an overview of the process used by State Government.

After some discussion, the board developed an outline for the request for proposal process and a timeline for completion. Staff will bring a written draft of a proposal to the next meeting for the board's review. The soft timeline developed by board is to send out the RFP on May 1st; provide written responses to questions/clarifications to all bidders in mid-May; and have a submission deadline of May 31st. The board will evaluate the proposals during the month of June and make an award decision on July 1st. All bidders will be notified that the selection and award are contingent on receiving grant funding in early to mid-July.

The board decided to require all bidders to submit a proposal for a “big” study in the event that \$150,000 to \$200,00 is available in grant funding and a “small” study in the event that lesser amount of funding is obtained. Bidders will be asked to complete a draft study 90 days after the award date and a final study in 120 days. The board also identified several factors for evaluation of the proposals, including cost/value of the proposal; quality and analysis of the proposal; experience with health economic modeling; qualifications of key staff; availability for technical assistance and communication plan; flexibility to incorporate Maine-specific data; and credibility of the model.

Development of Single-payer Model

The board reviewed the enabling legislation and elements included in the legislation related to the single-payer model. The discussion focused on the elements of the model needed for defining the scope of work in the request for proposal. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.